憂鬱な朝
scene.1

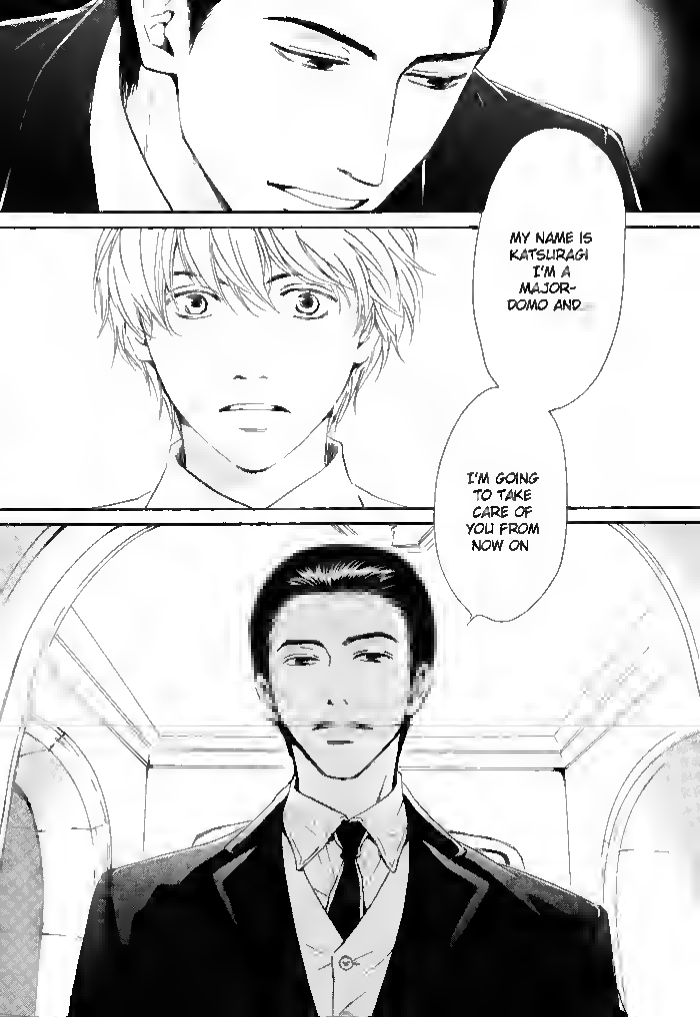
Clatter
Clatter
Clatter
Clatter
Bustle
Bustle
Bustle
SO MANY PEOPLE
Rattle
Rattle
Rattle

I HEARD A NEW DEPARTMENT STORE OPENED THE OTHER DAY. EVERYTIME I COME HERE, I ENJOY A DIFFERENT VIEW.
QUITE SO
LOTS OF PEOPLE COME TO GINZA FROM SHINBASHI STATION
WHAT IS THAT BUILDING WITH PEOPLE STANDING IN LINE?
IT'S A FRUIT SHOP
IT'S POPULAR BECAUSE YOU CAN EAT WESTERN FRUITS AND SWEETS THERE
INSIDE THE SHOP? ANYTIME?
LOOK!
HMM...
I WANT TO GO THERE AND EAT AN APPLE!
SORRY, BUT YOU CAN'T GO THERE
KATSURAGI-SAMA ORDERED ME TO TAKE YOU HOME STRAIGHT FROM THE STATION
KATSURAGI—
KATSURAGI—
HAS A HIGHER STANDING THAN YOU? WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE?

I HEARD FROM MY FATHER
THAT KATSURAGI FAMILY WAS THE CHIEF RETAINER IN EDO PERIOD
YOU KNOW A LOT, YOUNG MASTER
KATSURAGI-SAMA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WHOLE KUZE FAMILY'S HOUSEHOLD
HE WAS HIGHLY TRUSTED BY THE FORMER MASTER AND-
Rattle
THE KATSURAGI FAMILY IS A BRANCH OF KUZE FAMILY. ISN'T IT?
HMM.
QUITE RIGHT, SO HE'S DIFFERENT FROM ME IN HIS ANCESTRY
MY FATHER TOLD ME TO TRUST HIM.
YOUNG MASTER?
JUST - DO WHAT HE SAYS AND DON'T WORRY
MY MOTHER WAS POOR IN HEALTH.
SHE PASSED AWAY AFTER SPENDING MOST OF THE TIME IN KAMAKURA AFTER MARRIAGE.

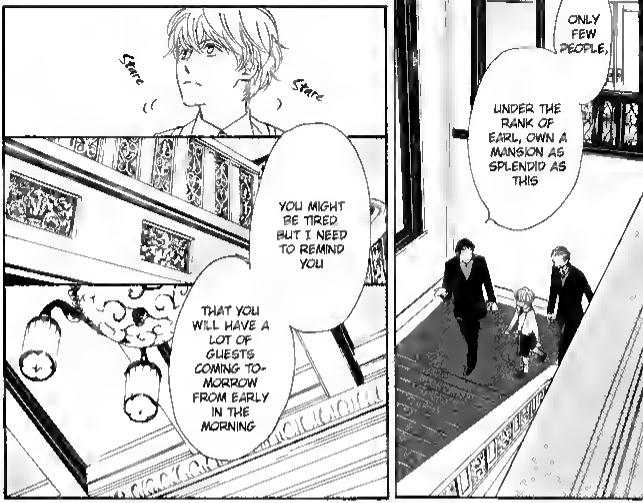
HALF A YEAR LATER, MY FATHER SUD DENLY PASSED AWAY AS IF FOL-LOWING HER.
OH, THAT'S A.
WE ARE ALMOST THERE
DO YOU THINK MY FATHER MEANT THAT I COULD THINK OF KATSURAGI AS MY FATHER?
I WAS LEFT ALONE
Rattle
Rattle
Rattle
I'M ONLY TEN YEARS OLD AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
ALL I CAN DO IS TO FOLLOW MY FATHER'S WILL
THIS HOUSE IS MUCH BIGGER THAN YOUR OLD HOME IN KAMAKURA.
THAT—

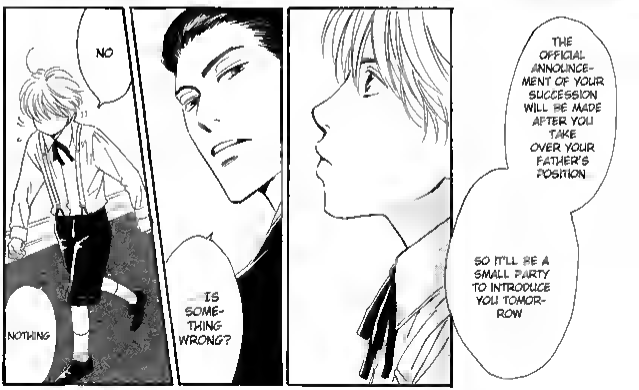
THE MAIN RESIDENCE OF THE VISCOUNT KUZE.
WELCOME HOME, YOUNG MASTER.
WELCOME HOME, YOUNG MASTER.
Tap
WELCOME HOME, AKIHITO-SAMA.


MY NAME IS KATSURAGI I'M A MAJOR-DOMO AND
I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU FROM NOW ON

LUM...
WHAT?
W-WELL
AKIHITO-SAMA,
MIND YOUR STEP. IT'S QUITE DARK
OKAY SO—
Ooph!
STUMBLE
TRIP
GRAB
I TOLD YOU

THANK YOU.
T-
...TO WATCH YOUR STEP.
...
THUD
I WAS SURPRISED AT THE LOOK OF HIM. HE IS MUCH YOUNGER THAN I THOUGHT.
SUCH A BIG HAND
MY FATHER'S LAST WORDS WAS JUST-
...TO DEFER TO HIM.
ARE YOU AMAZED AT THE SIZE OF YOUR HOUSE?


ONLY FEW PEOPLE,
UNDER THE RANK OF EARL, OWN A MANSION AS SPLENDID AS THIS
Stare
Stare
YOU MIGHT BE TIRED BUT I NEED TO REMIND YOU
THAT YOU WILL HAVE A LOT OF GUESTS COMING TO-MORROW FROM EARLY IN THE MORNING


THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCE-MENT OF YOUR SUCCESSION WILL BE MADE AFTER YOU TAKE OVER YOUR FATHER'S POSITION
SO IT'LL BE A SMALL PARTY TO INTRODUCE YOU TOMOR-ROW
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
NO
NOTHING

I'VE ARRANGED YOUR ROOM
YOU HAVE A MAIN BEDROOM,
AN ADJOINING ROOM, A BATHROOM IN THE LEFT
AND A BOOK ROOM.
WELCOME HOME, AKIHITO-SAMA.
IF YOU NEED ANY-THING, ASK BUTLER TAMURA

THIS IS THE HEAD MAID KIKU.
NICE TO MEET YOU
KIKU HAS BEEN A MAID IN THE KUZE FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT THE HOUSEHOLD SO YOU CAN ASK HER ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW
OH— OKAY.. NICE TO MEET YOU
AKIHITO-SAMA

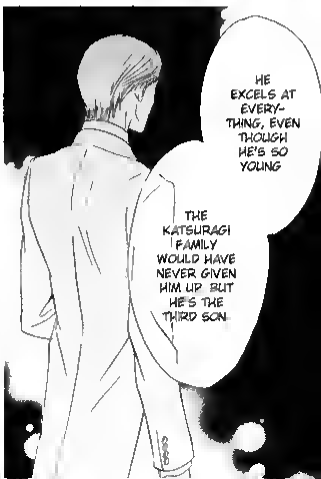
I'M SAYING THIS FOR YOUR SAKE.
YOU DON'T NEED TO THANK SERVANTS
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU BEHAVED IN KAMAKURA, BUT PLEASE REFRAIN FROM DOING IT FROM NOW ON
YOU MUST BEHAVE AS A FAMILY HEAD
FOR MY SAKE
...OKAY.
EXCUSE ME NOW.
WAIT—
KATSURAGI
PARDON?
SO— I HOPE WE CAN GET ALONG WITH ONE ANOTHER

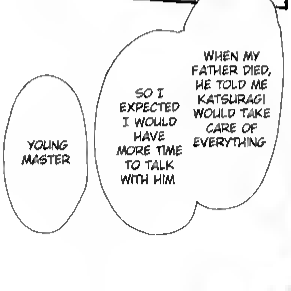
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT
click
YOU ARE EXCUSED FOR TODAY.
...
YES.
WHAT IS IT?
UM...
KIKU.

HE IS
A MAN OF FINE CHARAC-TER
AFTER THE FORMER MASTER PASSED AWAY HE TOOK SUCH GOOD CARE OF THE HOUSE-HOLD AND BUSI-NESS THAT WE ARE ABLE TO WELCOME YOU WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE TODAY

WHAT KIND OF A PERSON IS KATSURAGI?

KIKU


HE EXCELS AT EVERY-THING, EVEN THOUGH HE'S SO YOUNG
THE KATSURAGI FAMILY WOULD HAVE NEVER GIVEN HIM UP BUT HE'S THE THIRD SON


YOUNG MASTER
SO I EXPECTED I WOULD HAVE MORE TIME TO TALK WITH HIM
WHEN MY FATHER DIED, HE TOLD ME KATSURAGI WOULD TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING

PLEASE TRY NOT TO BOTHER HIM OVER LITTLE THINGS.
KATSURAGI-SAMA IS SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT BEING A FAMILY MASTER.
THERE WERE LOTS OF PEOPLE IN TOWN
THE CEILING IS SO HIGH
BUT IT'S SO SPACIOUS AND QUIET HERE NOBODY SEEMS TO BE AROUND
HIC
AKIHITO-SAN

YOUR FATHER IS TOO BUSY WITH HIS BUSINESS TO COME OVER TO KAMAKURA
YOU'RE NOT SAD WITH JUST THE TUTORS, MAIDS AND ME BY YOUR SIDE, ARE YOU?
I LET YOU STAY HERE BECAUSE YOUR MOTHER WAS SICK AND SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN LONELY WITHOUT YOU
BUT I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT YOU BACK TO TOKYO EARLIER
AKIHITO
I CAN'T TAKE CARE OF YOU ANYMORE
YOU HAVE KATSURAGI.

LEARN FROM HIM.
HE KNOWS EVERYTHING THAT YOU DON'T.
TOO MANY THINGS I DON'T KNOW
I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT I DON'T KNOW
NEITHER FATHER NOR MOTHER TAUGHT ME ANYTHING AFTER ALL.
KATSURAGI
I HAVE NOBODY BUT KATSURAGI
HE IS TALL AND LOOKS NICE
DRESSED IN WESTERN STYLE
KATSURAGI.

BUZZ
DID YOU KNOW? THE HEIR JUST BECAME 10 YEARS OLD.
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
I THINK THE LATE LORD AKINAO HAD A YOUNGER BROTHER OF THE RIGHT AGE FOR A SUCCESSOR. IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN STRANGE IF HE'S BEEN ADOPTED.
I HEARD HE WANTED HIS BIOLOGICAL SON TO BE THE SUCCESSOR
BUZZ
HIS BROTHER WAS IN POOR HEALTH
I DON'T GET WHY THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD AGENCY CONFERRED A PEERAGE ON A MERE 10 YEAR-OLD BOY
THE FAMILY ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO BE GRANTED AN EXCEPTION
I'M SURE THE BUTLER KATSURAGI PULLED SOME STRINGS FROM BEHIND
HUSH HE CAN HEAR YOU
AH
LOOK
THE BOY IS COMING

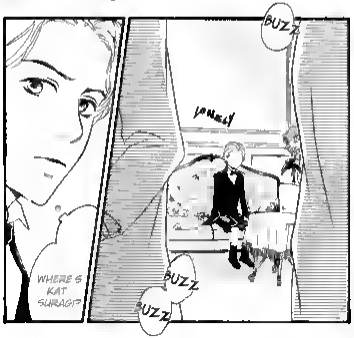
SORRY FOR DELAYING HIS INTRODUCTION.
THIS IS THE HEIR OF THE KUZE FAMILY, LORD AKIHITO.
AS SOON AS THE PREPARATIONS ARE MADE, WE WILL BE READY TO ACCEPT THE PEERAGE WITHIN HALF A YEAR.

THIS WAY PLEASE.
AKIHITO-SAMA.

THAT'S WHAT THE BUTLER IS FOR. KATSURAGI WILL DO EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT.
WELL, CERTAINLY A YOUNG LORD.

YES, I... I'LL BE TEN THIS YEAR.
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
OH! WHAT A SWEET NEW LORD.

AKIHITO-SAMA.
INDEED.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY SINCE YOU'VE BECOME HIS GUARDIAN
IT'S MY GREAT HONOR.
THIS IS THE MARCHIONESS OF MORIYAMA.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
THAT IS THE MARQUESS OF KARASUMA, AND THE MARCHIONESS, LADY TAKAKO.
AND THIS IS THE HEIR OF THE MARQUESS OF SAIONJI, LORD SHIGEYUKI.
AND...


BUZZ
LONELY
BUZZ
BUZZ
WHERE IS KAT SURAGI?

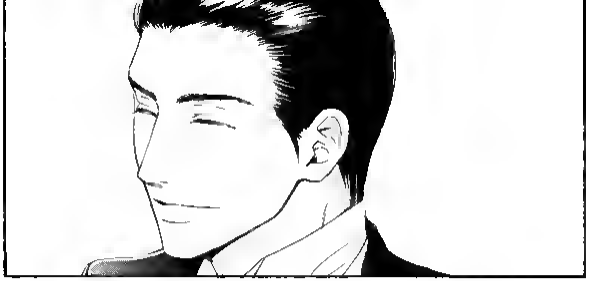
THEY ARE ALL IMPORTANT PEOPLE FOR THE KUZE FAMILY
SO PLEASE BEHAVE PROPERLY

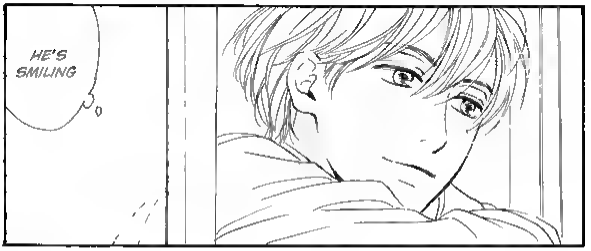
IT'S A LAVISH PARTY, ISN'T IT?
YES. I HEARD IT WAS JUST A SIMPLE PARTY TO INTRODUCE HIM.
RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE GOT A LOT OF MONEY BY INVESTING ON RAILWAYS...
I WISH I WERE HIM...
HA HA HA HA
THOUGH THE KUZE FAMILY IS SUCCEEDED BY A YOUNG MASTER, THEY'RE FINE AS LONG AS KATSURAGI IS AROUND
HE IS SOMETHING FOR HIS AGE
IT WOULD BE A BIG LOSS FOR THE KATSURAGI FAMILY IF THEY EVER LET YOU GO
HAH
WHAT A CROWD
EVERYBODY WANTS TO TALK TO KATSURAGI
EVERYONE, DINNER IS READY PLEASE COME TO THE GARDEN
AH!
PULL
KATSURAGI!
WHAT IS IT? YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO HEAD TO THE GARDEN NOW, AS WELL..
BUT...! I DON'T KNOW ANY TABLE MANNERS!

KAT-SURA-GI?
WHAT WAS THAT? YOU SAID YOU HAVE A TUMMY ACHE?
I'VE ONLY USED CHOPSTICKS IN KAMA-KURA
MOTHER ALLOWED ME TO DO SO
...NO
ARE YOU KIDDING?
TAKE YOUNG MASTER TO HIS ROOM
YES
YES, SIR
HAH!
N... NO
IT HURTS!
TERRIBLY!!
WELL THEN IT CAN'T BE HELPED
TAMURA!
MY, IS HE ALL RIGHT?
WHAT!?
...DO YOU NOT FEEL WELL, AKIHITO-SAMA?
I wonder what it could be...

I HEARD THAT KUZE'S CHIEF COOK HAD LEARNED COOKING ABROAD I'M EXCITED TO SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE
KATSURAGI-KUN COME SIT HERE AND TALK ABOUT AN INVEST-MENT
PLEASE DON'T WORRY AND ENJOY YOUR DINNER
WE'LL INTRODUCE AKIHITO-SAMA SOME OTHER TIME
DON'T WORRY HE'LL SEE A DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY
OH
WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND KATSURAGI?
TAMURA
WELL, IT'S BECAUSE OF HIS EFFORTS
WHAT IS IT, YOUNG MASTER?
KATURAGI LOOKS HARSH, BUT HE MIGHT BE KIND DEEP DOWN

HMM...
YES. ALL THE PEOPLE ARE RANKED HIGHER THAN THE KUZE FAMILY
IS THAT SO?
WITHOUT KATSURAGI-SAMA, ALL THE GUESTS WOULDN'T ATTEND A PARTY HELD BY SOMEONE IN VISCOUNTCY
HUH.




HE'S SMILING

I WONDER IF OUR MASTER WILL READ ALL OF THEM
KATSURAGI-SAMA WILL READ THROUGH THEM FIRST AND DECIDE WHICH TO PUT IN THE LIBRARY.
KATSU-RAGI-SAMA MIGHT READ THEM ALL.

WHAT A LOT OF BOOKS!
YOU THINK SO TOO? I CAN'T CARRY THEM ALL BY MYSELF.

OH
WILL YOU HELP ME CARRY THE BOOKS WE GOT JUST NOW?

SLAM
I SEE
shiver
I'VE EXPLAINED IT QUITE A FEW TIMES AND YOU STILL SEEM TO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET AKIHITO-SAMA
NMM
YOU WILL STUDY MANY THINGS AT SCHOOL AND WITH TUTORS
BUT ONLY I CAN TEACH YOU THE ECONOMY IN THIS AGE
Glance
SLAM
AKIHITO-SAMA.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT NOW IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU IN THE FUTURE
WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOU WILL STUDY AT AN IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY. MEANINGLESS CLASS SYSTEMS WILL BE ABOLISHED AND MONEY WOULD LIKELY SPEAK A LOT MORE
YOU SEE
YEAH
I'D LIKE YOU TO READ ALL THE BOOKS BY TONIGHT
PILE UP
!
ANYWAY,
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IT SOMEDAY

....
No way
I'LL ASK TAMURA TO BRING YOU LUNCH.
KAT-SURAGI
HAS GOOD POSTURE
...
AKIHITO-SAMA
I WILL BE GOING NOW.
I HOPE YOU CAN DO IT BY YOURSELF.
Y-YES
CLACK
WHAT IS IT?

AH
A COACH OF THE SAIONJI FAMILY.
MAYBE SHIGEYUKI-SAMA CAME AGAIN...
IT'S BEEN HALF A YEAR SINCE...
THAT YOUNG VISCOUNT CAME HERE
YES
HE IS SMART, ISN'T HE?
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE TIED DOWN BY THE KUZE FAMILY.
SHIGEYUKI-SAMA
SORRY BUT I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT AGAIN I THOUGHT YOU CAME HERE TODAY TO DISCUSS AN... INVESTMENT IN BANKS

KLAK
YOU DE-SERVE BETTER THAN BEING A BUTLER OF A VISCOUNT.
I HAVE MORE POWER OVER THE FAMILY THAN OTHER BUTLERS DO
SINCE I AM THE THIRD CHILD IN THE KATSURAGI FAMILY I WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO KEEP BOOKS THERE
THAT WON'T BE THE CASE WITH YOU!
LISTEN, I'M NOT SAYING THAT
I WILL ONLY END UP BEING A PUPPET IN THE KATSURAGI FAMILY

KAT-SURA-GI.
I CAN GIVE YOU A POSITION IN THE GOVERN-MENT.
IF YOU WANT, I WILL ASK MY FATHER TO WELCOME YOU TO MY FAMILY.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHY YOU'RE SO ATTACHED TO THIS FAMILY.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

WHO IS IT?
SHIVER
IT'S NO JOKE TO TAKE CARE OF AN INNOCENT CHILD, KITSURAGI.
AKIHITO-SAMA,
HAVE YOU FINISHED ALL THE WORKS I GAVE YOU YET?
UH... WELL...
W... WELL.

FARE-WELL
I'M GOING NOW
STOP BY MY PLACE, AS ALWAYS
I SURE WILL
TAP
DID YOU EAVES-DROP?
YOU TWO GET ALONG WELL, SHIGEYUKI-SAMA AND YOU
EVEN IF HE'S ONE OF THE GUYS HE IS THE HEIR OF THE MAR-QUESS OF SAIONJI
BOTH OF HIS SISTERS MARRIED COURT NOBLES
YOU CAN SAY THAT NOBILITY IS THE ONLY THING HE CAN BE PROUD OF
THOUGH I HEARD THAT HIS FAMILY HAS BEEN GOING THROUGH A TOUGH TIME FINANCIALLY THESE DAYS.
HE ASKS ME TO HELP HIS FAMILY FROM TIME TO TIME.

LATELY, THE NUMBER OF NEW NOBILITIES IS GETTING BIGGER, SO IF HIS FAMILY DOES NOTHING TO LIVE WITH THE TIME,
AND CONTINUES TO CLING TO PRIVILEGE, THEN THEY WONT MAKE IT UNTIL THE END
THE SAME APPLIES TO YOU AKIHITO-SAMA
HUH?
YOU'RE NOT STUDYING ONLY FOR YOUR OWN GOOD
YOU SHOULD BE MORE SERIOUS

I MUST SAY—
AKIHITO-SAMA!
QUIVER
!
BUT... I'M STUDYING PROPERLY AT SCHOOL. I JUST WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU FOR A LITTLE BIT...
YOU DON'T TAKE AFTER YOUR FATHER AT ALL.
YOU KNOW, YOU HAVE TO BE PERFECT TO SUCCEED THE NAME OF KUZE
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO GO IN THE PUBLIC IF YOU LACK INTELLIGENCE

PLEASE NEVER DISGRACE THE KUZE FAMILY OR ME.
UH...
WHAT IS IT?
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, I WILL LISTEN TO YOU.
YOUNG MASTER.
YOU...
BAM
BAM
BAM
YOU SUCK!!

Slam
...
HUH
I KNOW LITTLE ABOUT KATSURAGI,
ONLY THAT MY FATHER TOOK HIM IN FROM THE KATSURAGI FAMILY
HE WAS GIVEN ALL THE AUTHORITY IN THE KUZE FAMILY BY MY FATHER'S WILL,
AND HE'S TOO STRICT WITH ME...
IT'S ONLY UNTIL YOU REACH ADULTHOOD, ISN'T IT?

WHAT IS IT?
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TOMOYUKI KATSURAGI
I HEARD THAT HE HAD A GOOD COMMAND OF KUZE'S ESTATE UNTIL KUZE WAS GIVEN A PEERAGE
IS THAT RIGHT, KUZE?
I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN SOMEONE WITH MONEY BUT NOT OF NOBILITY DOES WHATEVER THEY LIKE
KATSURAGI IS JUST A COMMONER NOW, ISN'T HE?
YEAH
BY THE WAY, KUZE
DID YOU HEAR THAT ONLY THE NOBILITY OF DISTINGUISHED ANCESTRY WAS ALLOWED TO ATTEND A COURT EVENT LAST MONTH?
WE'LL BE GIVEN A PEERAGE EVENTUALLY, SO I THINK WE SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THE WAY TO BEHAVE IN A COURT. DO YOU WANT TO ...
KUZE!

ISHIZAKI!
SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT TO GO
KUZE,
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL WHO YOU GET MIXED UP WITH

SEE?
YOU'RE ONLY ASKING FOR TROUBLE IF YOU KEEP IN WITH SOMEONE OF AN UPSTART MERCHANT FAMILY LIKE ME
I DON'T MIND
IT CAN BE MORE PAINFUL TO GET ALONG WITH THOSE KINDS OF GUYS...
YOU REALLY ARE PECULIAR NOBILITY
SO, WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT WITH THOSE KINDS?
IT WAS ABOUT KATSURAGI

ACTUALLY, HE IS MORE POPULAR THAN ME
HE HAS A WIDE CIRCLE OF ACQUAINTANCES, AND THEY ALWAYS DISCUSS THE WAY TO MAKE MONEY
THOSE WHO ARE NOT GOOD AT MAKING A PROFIT EXPECT HIM TO GIVE THEM BENEFICIAL INFORMATION ABOUT INVESTMENT AND TRADING LANDS
HE GRADUATED FROM THIS SCHOOL WITH TOP HONORS DIDN'T HE?
THAT'S SOMETHING.
QUITE TRUE.
HE'S SO PERFECT THAT HE OFTEN TREATS INFERIORS AS IF THEY'RE BUGS
YOU CAN SEE WHAT I MEAN IF YOU TALK TO HIM ONCE
I'LL PASS.
WHAT IS IT?

I'M NOT SURE. I DON'T LIKE SOME PARTS OF HIM.
AND SOMETIMES I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S THINKING ABOUT.
HE MUST BE A GOOD TEACHER TO YOU
WELL,
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?
IT'S NOT THAT YOU HATE KATSURAGI, IS IT?
WHY?
I CAN TELL BY THE WAY YOU TALK ABOUT HIM.
BUT KATSURAGI...
IS NOT CONCERNED...
WITH SOCIAL STANDING OR TITLES.
THAT'S SOMETHING HE IS WORTHY OF RESPECT

AGAIN... IT'S TOO MUCH OF A BOTHER
AND HERE IS A LETTER FROM A YOUNG LADY OF LORD KASAI
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT
WHAT IS IT?
I'M HOME TAMURA!
WELCOME HOME MASTER
WELL...
YOUR GERMAN LESSON THIS EVENING WAS CANCELLED
OKAY

I DON'T KNOW WHO THE GUEST IS AND HE ORDERED US NOT TO GO NEAR THE ROOM
A GUEST? FOR KATSURAGI?
KATSURAGI IS OUT ALL DAY TODAY, ISN'T HE?
NO... HE HAPPENED TO HAVE A GUEST AND HE'S NOW IN THE GUEST ROOM ON THE UPPER FLOOR

KNOCK
KNOCK
ARE YOU THERE KATSURAGI? IT'S ME
CLICK
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
!
POUND
POUND
KATSURAGI!
OPEN UP THE DOOR, I'M IN A HURRY!
POUND
KATSURA...

WHAT IS IT, KATSURAGI?
PARDON ME.
IT'S NO PROBLEM, KAYOKO-SAMA AKIHITO-SAMA WON'T SAY A WORD

I AM DISGUSTED WITH YOUR IGNORANCE
I WAS IN A GUEST ROOM ALONE WITH A LADY THIS MORNING—
DO YOU LACK IN IMAGINATION, TOO?
SHE IS THE MARCHIONESS OF MORIYAMA, ISN'T SHE?

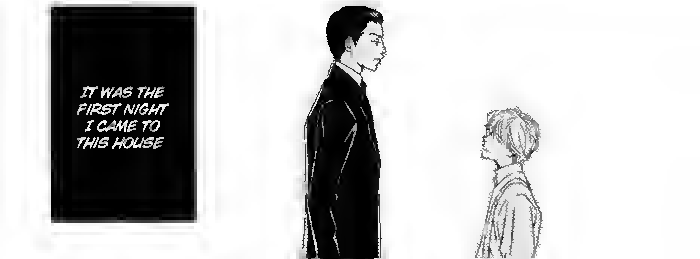
I KNOW YOU DELIBERATELY OPENED THE DOOR
YES
SHE MIGHT OFFER YOU OVERSEAS STUDY IN ENGLAND AS AN EXCEPTION TO BUY YOUR SILENCE
SWIPE
YES
MORIYAMA FAMILY HAS A BIG INFLUENCE ON THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. SO I THINK HER GOOD WORD MIGHT FAVOR YOU A LOT WHEN YOU APPLY FOR THE OVERSEAS STUDY PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
PULL
!
YOU...!
MASTER,
WHAT DO YOU THINK KUZE FAMILY DOESN'T HAVE?
BAM

I CAN DEAL WITH MONEY EASILY
IT CAN BE INCREASED AND DECREASED AS YOU LIKE
EVEN SOMEONE IN THE NOBILITY IF THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE MONEY
THEY ARE JUST DOOMED TO FALL FROM WEALTH TO POVERTY HOWEVER, THE PEERAGE IS
THE ONE THING YOU CANNOT ACQUIRE NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE
DIDN'T I TELL YOU FIRST?
I'M DETERMINED TO MAKE YOU PERFECT.
...
ARE YOU...

WORKING
AT GETTING A HIGHER TITLE FOR THE KUZE FAMILY?
DO YOU THINK YOU CANNOT?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! UNLESS YOU WIN MILITARY GLORY OR ACHIEVE SOMETHING SPECIAL IT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE TO BE OFFERED A HIGHER TITLE IN ONE GENERATION...
AND MOST OF ALL
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO DO THAT
THE SAME THING CAN BE SAID ABOUT MY STUDYING ABROAD
I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO DO THAT MUCH FOR ME
FOR YOU?

I'M AFRAID THAT YOU HAVE THE WRONG IDEA
I HAVEN'T WORKED FOR YOUR OWN SAKE
I NEVER HAVE
EVERY-THING IS FOR "KUZE FAMILY" TO BE OF-FERED A HIGHER TITLE
THOSE EYES...
I'LL TELL YOU NOW THAT I SERVE NOT YOU BUT ONLY THE FORMER MASTER
I WAS GIVEN ALL THE AUTHORITY FROM HIM UNTIL YOU REACH ADULTHOOD

IF YOU WANT TO GIVE ME AN ORDER,
OW...
GRAB
YOU SHOULD BE SMARTER
I [illegible] HIM STARING AT ME LIKE THIS.


IT WAS THE FIRST NIGHT I CAME TO THIS HOUSE

SAME AS BEFORE.
HE LOOKS
KATSURAGI IS NOT SIMPLY STRICT TOWARDS ME
NOT THAT
BUT
AS IF...
YOUNG MASTER,
PLEASE DON'T DISSAPPOINT ME ANYMORE
HE HATES ME.
Scene1 END

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Nakamura
presents

Yuutsu na Asa

by

Shouko Hidaka

Credit

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translator: gakuura
editor: dkhutchens
qpeer, skiers, and anonymous

日高ショーコ

憂鬱な朝 1

Yuki Yodoka Presents

CHARA COMICS

Chara COMICS

憂鬱な朝

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定価：本体571円＋税

After the death of his father, Akihito Kaze became the family head of a viscountcy at the age of 10. A major-domo, Tomoyuki Katsuragi, who has both brains and beauty, takes care of the young master. Katsuragi is talented and very popular in society, but he is cold to Akihito. Does Katsuragi hate Akihito!? Akihito begins to be attracted to Katsuragi and wants to know the reason why Katsuragi is cold to him and...!? A classical romance of a young viscount and a butler

CHARA COMICS

1

日高ショーコ

徳間書店

憂鬱な朝

Shiba Yuuka Present's

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PROFILE

SHOKO HIDAKA

Hidaka Shouko
Born March 31, Aries
Bloodtype: - A
Hometown: Tokyo

● It's my first time doing a period piece and also to have a volume number in title... I have lots of new challenges, but I hope you will like them!

Comics of Shouko Hidaka

[Yuuutsu na Asa 1]

COVER DESIGN • Yuuko Mukaidaya (mash logo graphics)

憂鬱な朝
scene,2

DON'T DISAPPOINT YOU? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE I DON'T LISTEN TO YOU?
OR BECAUSE I CANNOT ACT LIKE MY FATHER?
OR...
WHY?
DON'T LOOK AT ME THAT WAY
I ONLY
AKIHITO-SAMA,
DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PEOPLE RANKED AS THE EARL AND ABOVE AND THOSE IN THE VISCOUNT OR BARON CLASS?

FOR EXAMPLE

I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE SHIGEYUKI SAIONJI-SAMA, BUT...

THE SAIONJI FAMILY CAN REMAIN IN THE HIGH RANKS FOR LIFE ONCE THEY ENTER THE HOUSE OF LORDS BUT...

HE IS THE HEIR OF THE MARQUESS AND YOU ARE THE HEIR OF THE VISCOUNT BOTH OF YOU ARE THE HEIRS OF THE NOBLE FAMILIES BUT YOUR POSITION IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM HIS YOU CAN'T ENJOY THE SAME PRIVILEGES THAT HE CAN HE'LL BE PROMOTED FASTER THAN YOU AND ALSO KEEP A BETTER POSITION AT COURT

YOU SHOULD BE SOCIABLE AND ALWAYS BE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SURROUNDINGS TO BE ELECTED

IT'S REALLY TOUGH, ISN'T IT?

THERE ARE ABOUT THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY PEOPLE IN THE SAME NOBILITY CLASS AND YOU HAVE TO BE ELECTED TO GET THE POSITION OF ONE OF THE SEVENTY MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COURSE THERE IS A TERM OF OFFICE

YOU HAVE TO RUN FOR AN ELEC TION

YOU... DON'T CARE FOR IT, DO YOU!?
NOBILITY RANK... SUCH CRAP
IT'S NECESSARY FOR YOU TO HAVE A STRONG BOND WITH INFLUENTIAL FIGURES TO RECEIVE A HIGHER TITLE
THAT'S WHY YOU GO WITH SAIONJI AND MORIYAMA!?
QUITE TRUE
I DOUBT IT
NOBILITY STILL MEANS A LOT
YOU SEE
YOU ARE RANKED LOWER THAN ME
SO YOU CAN'T GO WITH KATSURAGI AS YOU LIKE
AND YOU'RE NOT AS TALENTED AS YOUR FATHER
FIRST OF ALL, YOU'VE NOT YET BEEN ACCEPTED BY KATSURAGI

...AS HIS MASTER, HAVE YOU?
WHAT A NASTY DREAM.
OVERSEAS STUDY?
I HEARD THAT HE GOT SUPPORT FROM THE MARQUESS OF MORIYAMA.

IF THE MARQUESS OF MORIYAMA IS INVOLVED, IT MUST BE AN OVERSEAS STUDY PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, RIGHT?
KUZE HAS BECOME A FAMILY HEAD ALREADY?
WHAT'S THE POINT OF CLINGING TO THE NOBILITY?
WHAT RUBBISH IF THEY WANT TO GO ABROAD THEY SHOULD TRY TO GET GOOD SCORES AND ASK THEIR FATHERS TO LET THEM GO
flip
IT'S KATSURAGI, KUZE'S BUTLER
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE WAS ABLE TO GET PERMISSION FROM THE GOVERNMENT
THEY'VE ALREADY STARTED A RUMOR.
snigger
IT'S THANKS TO MONEY, ISN'T IT?
HE GETS ALONG WITH UPSTARTS BECAUSE OF THAT.

I HEARD THAT HE'S BEEN VISITING THE MORIYAMA RESIDENCE FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS.
MY FATHER SAID HE IS QUITE A BEAUTY.
HE'S POPULAR AMONG LADIES AND EVEN SOME MEN WITH PECULIAR TASTE.
Hm.
MAYBE HE CREEPS INTO THEIR FAVOR BY NAUGHTY MEANS.
plonk
HE'S ONLY A SERVANT IN THE VISCOUNT-
OUCH!
WHAT THE-!?
TAKE BACK THOSE WORDS
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON A BUTLER IN MY FAMILY
WHAT DID YOU SAY...!?
slide
YOU STILL ENJOY GOSSIPING LIKE WOMEN IN HIGH SCHOOL
WHAT!?
HEY, KUZE!

ISHIZAKI
DON'T BOTHER WITH THOSE GUYS
LET'S GO HOME
"DON'T BOTHER" IS WHAT YOU ALWAYS SAY TO ME
IT'S JUST TODAY.
I USUALLY DON'T BOTHER MYSELF WITH OTHER PEOPLE AND TRY NOT TO MAKE ANY TROUBLE
DID YOU ALSO LEARN SUCH SOCIAL POLITICS FROM KATSURAGI?
I CAN'T BEAT HIM
YOU MADE AN ENEMY OF THEM WITH YOUR LAST WORDS.
Yeah.
WELL, ANY GUY HIT BY A BOOK WILL HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU.
haha
IT'S INCREDIBLE I'VE GOT TO LEARN IT TOO
HE TREATS PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT MANNERS. HIS BEHAVIOR TOWARDS ME THE SERVANTS AND THE NOBLES ARE ALL DIFFERENT

EH? YOU HAVE NOBODY TO PICK YOU UP TODAY?
YEAH
IT'S RARE, BUT I'M FREE TONIGHT
NO TUTORS ARE COMING TODAY
WELL
DO YOU LIKE ECONOMICS?
KIND OF
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT KUZE FAMILY'S EDUCATIONAL THE PRINCIPLE IS SIMILAR TO THAT FOR BUSINESSMEN AND NOT FOR NOBILITY
rattle
rattle
rattle
I THOUGHT EVERYBODY IN THE NOBILITY COULD LIVE IN LUXURY WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT MONEY ISSUES
MY FAMILY'S RANK IN THE NOBLE CLASS IS LOW AND WE'RE NOT FROM THE COURT NOBLES
IF OUR RANK WERE HIGHER THEN KATSURAGI COULDN'T HAVE EVERYTHING HIS OWN WAY AS HE DOES NOW

"I'll tell you now..."
MERCHANTS LIKE US CAN'T TRUST EVEN A HEAD CLERK
BUT HIS LOYALTY TO YOUR FAMILY PROVES THAT YOU ARE THE TRUE NOBILITY
"THAT I SERVE NOT YOU BUT ONLY THE FORMER MASTER."
KATSURAGI GIVES HIS LOYALTY NOT TO ME
BUT TO THE VISCOUNT KUZE FAMILY
IS SOMETHING WRONG? YOU CAN LEAVE ALL THE FAMILY MATTERS TO YOUR SERVANTS
YOU SHOULD DO WHATEVER YOU WANT
AH! THAT REMINDS ME OF THE KATSURAGI FAMILY.
I HEARD THAT THE ELDEST SON OFFICIALLY TOOK OVER THE FAMILY.
+...P
+...P

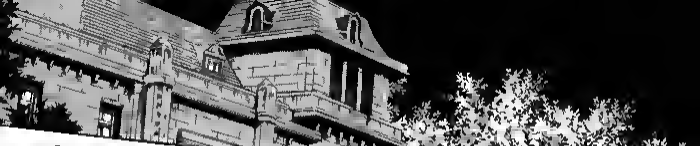
HUH? YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT? THE KATSURAGI FAMILY AND YOUR FAMILY ARE RELATED, RIGHT?
rattle
rattle
WHEN DID HE GET ILL?
DOES EVERY-BODY KNOW THAT?
TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW
WELL
BECAUSE THE HEALTH CONDITION OF THE FAMILY HEAD GOT WORSE
WHAT?

Huh?
YOU GET EMOTIONAL WHENEVER WE TALK ABOUT KATSURAGI
I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT KATSURAGI
HE RARELY TALKS ABOUT HIS OLD FAMILY
HE GOT UPSET EVERY TIME I MENTIONED IT
WHAT?
I'M GOING TO LIVE IN A DORMITORY IN HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?

NO YOU AREN'T.
IT'S COMPULSORY, ISN'T IT?
YOU DON'T NEED TO FOLLOW THE RULES IF YOU ARE PERMITTED BY THE DIRECTOR.
BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO BE IN EXCEPTIONAL CASE AGAIN...
IF YOU DON'T LIVE IN A DORMITORY, YOU CAN STUDY VARIOUS SUBJECTS AT HOME.
BESIDES, YOU HAVE TO MASTER ECONOMICS, ENGLISH, AND GERMAN.
Hmph.
YOU WON'T ALLOW ME TO LIVE IN A DORMITORY BECAUSE I HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE OVERSEAS STUDY PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY?
I KNOW YOU RECEIVE LETTERS FROM LADY MORIYAMA ALMOST EVERY DAY.
THAT'S WHY YOU GOT ACQUAINTED WITH THE MORIYAMA FAMILY.

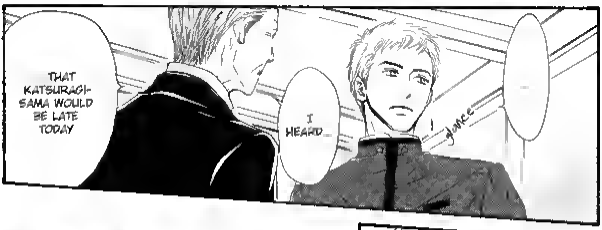
EVERYTHING IS FOR THE KUZE FAMILY.
WE HAVE TO TAKE ALL THE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS...
THAT'S ENOUGH, KATSURAGI!!
YOU...
I HEARD THAT YOU COULD DO ANYTHING WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE MARQUESS OF MORIYAMA.
YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE BECOME HER FAVORITE. YOU ARE GOING TO SEE HER AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
YES.
I DON'T MIND BEING CALLED A MALE MISTRESS OR WHORE,
AS LONG AS MY WISH IS GRANTED.
WHY DON'T YOU SAY WHAT YOU REALLY THINK, THAT I'M JUST LIKE "A MALE MISTRESS."
...
WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING IS JUST LIKE...
JUST LIKE?

AND YOU HAVE A MORE CONCRETE POSITION.
YOU ARE BETTER SUITED FOR THE KATSURAGI FAMILY. YOU SHOULD GO BACK THERE
IT WOULD BE MUCH...
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
PLEASE DON'T EVER TALK ABOUT THE KATSURAGI FAMILY EVER AGAIN



THANK YOU, TAMURA
SORRY TO BE LATE
ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE DINNER?
NO THANK YOU
I HAD IT WITH ISHIZAKI

WELCOME HOME MASTER

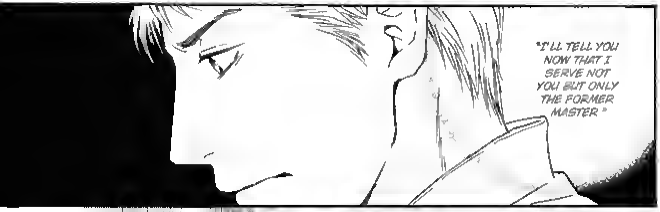

THAT KATSURAGI-SAMA WOULD BE LATE TODAY
I HEARD...
glance

HE GOES OUT QUITE OFTEN LATELY
HE'S NOT BACK YET
click

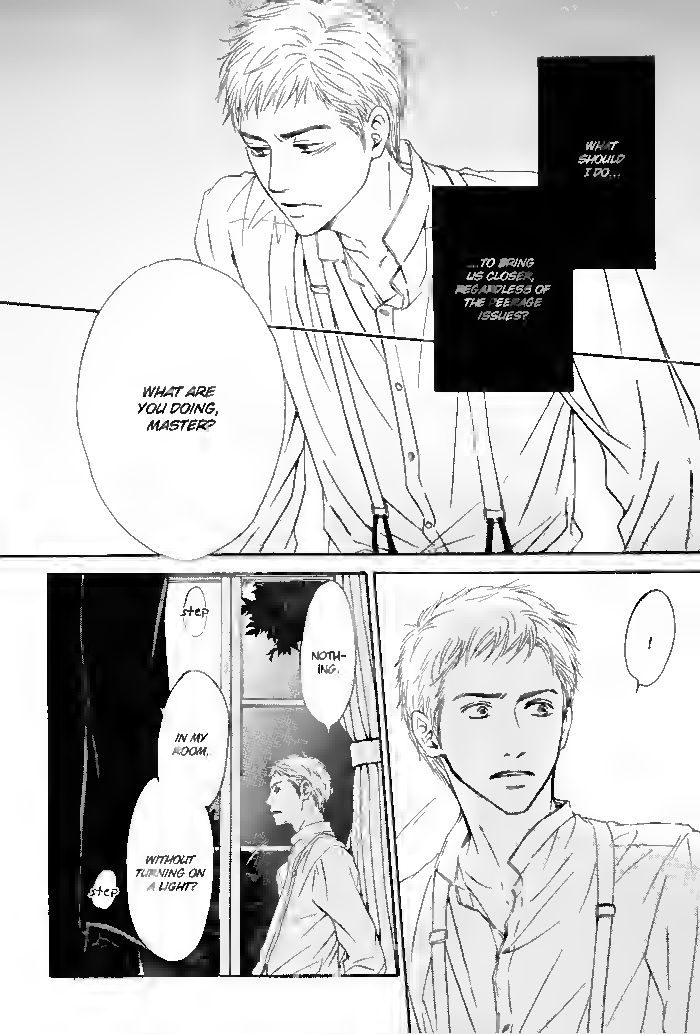
I HAVEN'T ASKED YOU ANYTHING
OH, EXCUSE ME

TAP
AFTER ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL
I HAVE HAD LESS TIME TO SPEND WITH KATSURAGI
WHERE IS HE NOW?
MAYBE WITH MORIYAMA OR SAIONJI OR WITH SOMEBODY NEW
I CAN'T SEE HIM
UNLESS I TRY
EVEN THOUGH KATSURAGI IS MY SERVANT

"FOR YOU?"
"I'M AFRAID THAT YOU HAVE THE WRONG IDEA."


"I'LL TELL YOU NOW THAT I SERVE NOT YOU BUT ONLY THE FORMER MASTER."

...
THERE IS NOTHING IN HIS ROOM.
creak
WHAT DOES KATSURAGI USUALLY THINK ABOUT IN THIS ROOM?


WHAT SHOULD I DO...
...TO BRING US CLOSER, REGARDLESS OF THE TEENAGE ISSUES?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MASTER?
step
NOTHING.
IN MY ROOM.
WITHOUT TURNING ON A LIGHT?
step
!

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
"MASTER"
WHEN HE DELIBERATELY ADDRESSES ME THAT WAY...
MASTER
I KNOW HE IS REALLY DISGUSTED WITH ME
rustle
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK TO ME ABOUT,
I'LL COME AND LISTEN IN YOUR ROOM
NO IT'S NOT THAT
I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU A LOT LATELY
I GUESS YOU KNOW TAKAKO-SAMA, A DAUGHTER OF THE MARQUESS OF MORIYAMA
ship
I'VE BEEN HELPING HER TO GET ENGAGED TO SHIGEYUKI SAIONJI-SAMA
fwoomp
!
IT'S MORIYAMA, AGAIN
YEAH, I RECALL SHE IS THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF LADY MORIYAMA.
YES SHE TURNED SIXTEEN YEARS OLD THIS YEAR

...AREN'T YOU SEEING SHIGEYUKI-SAMA THESE DAYS?
NO. I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SAIONJI FAMILY
WELL, NOTHING
I AM A BIT SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT SHIGEYUKI-SAMA ACCEPTED YOUR HELP
YOU...
WHAT IS IT?
...YOU ARE CRUEL.
HE'S REALLY CUNNING
I'M MERELY A BUTLER OF THE VISCOUNT. NOBODY IS GOING TO GET SERIOUS WITH ME.
Hm.
IT'S THE SAME WITH LADY MORIYAMA. I WONDER WHAT YOU'LL DO TO HER ONCE MY OVERSEAS STUDY IS PERMITTED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I FEEL SORRY FOR SHIGEYUKI-SAMA BEING DUMPED BY YOU.

HE MAKES THE BEST USE OF HIS POSITION AFTER ALL.
HE KNOWS THAT IF NEWS OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP COMES OUT, HE WON'T BE BOTHERED BUT THE OTHER PARTY WILL.
IF YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME-
ISHIZAKI TOLD ME TODAY
...THAT YOUR FATHER GOT VERY SICK
I KNOW
THEN WHY NOT RETURN TO THE KATSURAGI FAMILY!? YOU ARE FATHER AND SON!
THERE IS NO ROOM FOR ME IN THAT FAMILY NOW
I'M SAYING YOU'RE ALLOWED TO GO! ANYWAY
I WAS TOLD BY THE FORMER MASTER THAT I SHOULDN'T RETURN THERE EVER AGAIN.

SO, I'M NOT RETURNING
!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY FATHER!!
KATSURAGI, I'M SAYING NOW THAT YOU CAN GO!!
I...
I WAS ORDERED BY THE FORMER MASTER
AKIHITO-SAMA, I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS CONVERSATION
KATSURAGI!
MASTER.

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU MASTER IT'S BEEN SETTLED BETWEEN THE FORMER MASTER AND ME
I'M NOT ASKING FOR YOUR OPINION
IT'S "THE FORMER MASTER" AGAIN.
Tch!
A PROMISE...
...THAT I'LL NEVER COME TO KNOW.
click
YOU HAVE NOTHING IMPORTANT TO TALK ABOUT WITH ME NOW. DO YOU? PLEASE GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM.
HUH?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
touch
LORD KUZE.
IF YOU WANT TO ORDER ME TO DO SOMETHING,
I'LL COME TO YOUR ROOM
BUT IF YOU DON'T NEED ANYTHING, I'D LIKE YOU TO LEAVE THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW
!

ALL I SAID WAS THAT HE SHOULD VISIT HIS FATHER.
WHAT WAS THAT?
AND WHY...
I WENT TOO FAR.
ARE YOU ORDERING ME TO LEAVE?
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY FOR TALKING OUT OF TURN.
WHY DO I HAVE TO END UP LIKE THIS?
slam

thump
WHY CAN'T I...
GO AGAINST HIM?

MY FATHER.
I AM THE MASTER IN THIS HOUSE NOW. IT'S NOT MY FATHE
IT'S UNACCEPTABLE TO ORDER ME TO LEAVE
IS NOT HERE ANYMORE
HE'S NOT AWARE OF MY EXISTENCE AT ALL.
BUT KATSURAGI DOESN'T LISTEN TO ME
haa... haa...
haa

Ah!
I DON'T THINK I'VE DONE ANYTHING WRONG
I WAS ABLE TO ENDURE HATRED OR ENVY FROM THE PEOPLE AROUND ME
BECAUSE
...I WANTED TO LIVE UP TO HIS EXPECTATIONS OF ME.
SHE LOOKS AT ME WITH THOSE EYES
HE'S BEEN CONSCIOUS OF MY FEELINGS
HE'S CUNNING
slide
AND STILL

I WANTED TO BE WITH KATSURAGI
NO MATTER WHAT I HAD TO SUFFER.
FATHER...

UNTIL NOW, I TRIED NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT BUT

KUZE!
THIS WAY!
Clatter
Clatter
Clatter
I ASKED MY FATHER, AND HE WAS JUST ABOUT TO SEE SOMEONE FROM THE KITSURAGI FAMILY.
I THINK HE'LL COME SOON.
OKAY.
ISHIBAKI. I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
Haha!
DON'T MENTION IT.

This way please.
I WAS QUESTIONED AGAIN AND AGAIN IF LORD KUZE REALLY ASKED ME TO SET UP A MEETING
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SO OUT OF TOUCH WITH THEM
WELL, IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN
DON'T MIND-
OH
THAT'S HIM, TAKAYUKI KATSURAGI-SAMA. HE IS THE ELDEST SON OF THE KATSURAGI FAMILY
HE ACTUALLY MANAGES ALL THE BANKS UNDER THE KATSURAGI FAMILY

HE DOESN'T...
LOOK LIKE KATSURAGI AT ALL
I'M COLD.
SO COLD.
MY FINGERS ARE NUMB WITH COLD. I'M HUNGRY.
I CAN'T HOLD A PEN.
I'M COLD

IT'S MORNING ALREADY
OH.
I WENT TO SLEEP AFTER THAT
creak
WHENEVER I HAVE A TALK WITH AKIHITO-SAMA,
I DREAM ABOUT THE OLD DAYS
rattle
rattle
I MUST SAY
THAT HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE FORMER MASTER AT ALL

NAKAMA

Anniversary 2010

CREDITS

Yumetsu ch2

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scanner: pgrape
translators: gabby
proofer: animsomniac
editors: aripie
qcers: faelights & mee-p

憂鬱な朝
scene.3

tap
tap
tap
HAVE YOU SENT SOMEONE TO THE MORIYAMA RESIDENCE?
YES
GOOD.
WHEN YOU GET A LETTER, HAND IT TO TAMURA.
YES
WE NEED TO SEND A WEDDING GIFT TO THE MARQUESS OF SAIONJI.
tap
KIKU TOLD ME ONCE...

YES?
THAT WE SHOULD CHOOSE DIFFERENT GIFTS FOR MORIYAMA AND SAIONJI
IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE KIKU RETIRED DUE TO HER POOR HEALTH
YOU'RE THE HEAD OF MAIDSERVANTS DIDN'T YOU LEARN ANYTHING FROM HER?
WELL THAT IS...
I DID
BUT I HAVEN'T LEARNED WHAT GIFTS WE SHOULD SEND OR TO WHOM.
I'M SORRY
I'M GOING TO VISIT KIKU-SAMA AT HER HOUSE IN NEGISHI
NO THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO
I'LL GO INSTEAD
GIFTS FOR THE MARQUESS OF SAIONJI?

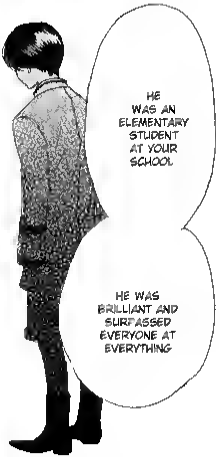
THIS IS EXTREMELY HELPFUL OF YOU
I SEE
HOWEVER, THE GIFTS FOR THE MARQUESS OF MORIYAMA ARE FAR LESS IMPORTANT YOU MAY LEAVE THAT TO THE OTHER SERVANTS
THEY'RE RELATED TO THE IMPERIAL FAMILY, SO PLEASE REFER TO THE LIST WHEN YOU SELECT THE GIFTS
BUT
I'M TRULY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS
LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANYTHING
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEW DOCTOR?

KATSURAGI-SAMA,
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD COME VISIT ME ANYMORE
BUT IT CAN'T BE EASY TO LIVE WITH ONLY ONE SERVANT TO LOOK AFTER YOU. AT LEAST LET ME GET YOU ONE MORE...
TOMOYUKI-SAMA.
WHEN I DIE THERE WON'T BE ANYONE LEFT IN THE KUZE FAMILY THAT KNOWS ABOUT YOUR PAST.
NOW...
clink

I DON'T THINK TOMOYUKI WANTS ANYTHING TO DO WITH US. THE KATSURAGI FAMILY ANYMORE
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
QUITE TRUE THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
BUT
I WAS SO YOUNG IT WAS ALL I COULD DO JUST TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF
AS I RECALL YOU WERE ABOUT TEN WHEN YOU WERE GIVEN YOUR TITLE
I DON'T THINK IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS
YOUR BROTHER IS A BUTLER IN MY FAMILY BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING OF WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOUR FAMILY AND MINE
I
I WANTED TO HAVE A PERSONAL CONVERSATION WITH YOU

clink
I REMEMBER THAT TOMOYUKI WAS NINE WHEN HE WAS TAKEN IN BY THE KUZE FAMILY
HAS MY BROTHER BEEN HELPFUL TO YOU?
PEOPLE DON'T TREAT YOUNG LORDS WITH A LOT OF RESPECT. IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD ON YOU
clink

YOUR FRIEND THE HEIR OF THE ISHIZAKI FAMILY DID THE SAME
THEY WANT TO ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN THE UPPER-CLASS
THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON MERE COMMONERS TRY TO ENTER THAT SCHOOL


HE WAS AN ELEMENTARY STUDENT AT YOUR SCHOOL
HE WAS BRILLIANT AND SURPASSED EVERYONE AT EVERYTHING

MY FATHER WAS HAPPY ABOUT IT, THEN.
THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT...
ANYWAY, TOMOYUKI JOINED THE KUZE FAMILY.
HE WAS REALLY FORTUNATE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MAIN FAMILY, EVEN AS ONLY A BUTLER.
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN YOUR FAMILY AND MINE SHOULD STAY IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE DOESN'T VISIT HIS FATHER THOUGH, IF HIS FATHER'S BEEN ILL.
I DON'T KNOW WHY MY FATHER FORBADE HIM TO GO BACK TO THE KATSURAGI FAMILY EITHER
Huh.
IT'S STRANGE
THERE SHOULD BE SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY WHO KNOWS MORE ABOUT THIS THAN I DO
NO, THERE ISN'T ANYONE.
STILL, I THINK YOU COULD FIGURE IT OUT, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT

I DIDN'T INTEND TO INTERFERE IN WHAT YOU HAD BEEN DOING THEN BUT I WAS QUITE SURPRISED
RIGHT
YOU DID KEEP CHANGING THE SERVANTS AND MAIDS ONE AFTER ANOTHER
NOBODY REMEMBERS ANYMORE WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE AKIHITO-SAMA WAS BORN
NOBODY CARES WHY I BECAME A MEMBER OF THE KUZE FAMILY
DID YOU DO ALL OF THIS FOR AKIHITO-SAMA?
NO

I DID IT FOR YOU
WHEN I TALK WITH YOU LIKE THIS SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I'M SPEAKING WITH THE FORMER MASTER
YOU LOOK SO MUCH LIKE AKINAO-SAMA
YOU TALK AND ACT SO MUCH LIKE HIM THAT IT SCARES ME AT TIMES
I THINK, IF THE FORMER MASTER WERE ALIVE, HE WOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF AKIHITO-SAMA JUST LIKE YOU DID

TAMURA TOLD ME ONCE THAT THE FORMER MASTER WAS VERY GENTLE WITH AKIHITO-SAMA.
I DOUBT IT
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THOUGH
...I'M REALLY SORRY,
BUT I HAVE TO GO NOW.
rattle
AH WAIT. I...
MY LORD,
YOU SHOULD THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT WHY OUR FAMILIES HAVEN'T KEPT IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER.
YOU'RE NOT A CHILD ANYMORE.

ANYWAY I'M NOT SOUND BY THE MASTER-SERVANT RELATIONSHIP FROM THE EDO PERIOD
I AGREED TO MEET WITH YOU TO HELP YOUR FRIEND ISHIZAKI-SAMA SAVE FACE I DIDN'T INTEND TO FOLLOW YOUR ORDER
LORD KUZE I THINK YOU NEED TO LEARN TO SEE THINGS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE PEOPLE BENEATH YOU

JUGGLE
JUGGLE
GOOD DAY
I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU GETTING UP THIS MEETING TODAY
PLEASE GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR FATHER
SOUICHIROU-SAMA
HOLD ON A SECOND

KUZE?
ARE YOU DONE?
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.
rattle rattle
I COULDN'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF HIM
rattle
rattle rattle
SO HOW WAS THE MEETING?
rattle
rattle rattle

HEY KUZE,
WHAT DOES TOMOYUKI KATSURAGI MEAN TO YOU?
YOU'RE TOO CONCERNED ABOUT HIM.
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HIM, BUT YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY
HE'S BEEN TAKING CARE OF YOU AND SUPPORTING THE KUZE FAMILY AS A BUTLER
rattle
rattle
IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T DELVE TOO DEEP INTO IT
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
...YES, YOU DO.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ONCE AKIHITO-SAMA REACHES ADULTHOOD?
KATSURAGI-SAMA
I'D LIKE YOU TO REMAIN IN THE KUZE FAMILY
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
I'VE GOT A LOT OF THINGS TO DO.
WELL, I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET
creak
rattle
rattle
rattle

KIKU? WHERE IS THE MASTER GOING?
rattle rattle
rattle rattle
rattle
THE MASTER IS GOING TO THE VILLA IN KAMAKURA.
WHY?
TOMOYUKI-SAMA...
I'M SORRY. DIDN'T ANYONE TELL YOU?
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE.
NOBODY KNOWS...
rattle rattle
rattle
WELCOME HOME.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

I MET WITH KIKU
AH, VERY WELL
MASTER TOLD ME TO REPORT TO HIM WHERE YOU GO WHENEVER YOU GO OUT
WHY DO YOU ASK?
SHE NEEDS TO SEE A GOOD DOCTOR.
SHE SEEMED TO HAVE LOST WEIGHT
HOW IS KIKU DOING?
DO I LOOK LIKE HE USED TO?
AH YES THAT'S RIGHT
NO...I SERVED THE FORMER MASTER'S WIFE AT THE VILLA IN KAMAKURA THEN
TAMURA
YES?
DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM WHEN I WAS TAKEN INTO THE FAMILY?

...MAYBE I'M HAUNTED BY HIM.
LATELY I THINK YOU'VE DEVELOPED A PRESENCE LIKE THE FORMER MASTER'S
OH YES
WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING.
HERE IS A LETTER FROM THE MORIYAMA...
GOOD EVENING ISHIZAKI-SAMA
WELCOME HOME

YOU'RE THE ONLY MALE DESCENDANT OF KUZE'S BLOOD AREN'T YOU?
HEY KUZE?
NO I'M LEAVING
AREN'T YOU GOING TO COME IN?
grab

YOU SHOULD GIVE IT SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT
WITHOUT YOU, THERE WON'T BE ANYONE TO SUCCEED THE FAMILY AND THE TITLE WILL BE TAKEN BACK
I KNOW

MY FATHER TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD NEVER COME BACK TO THE KATSURAGI
IT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO WHEN TOMOYUKI WAS TAKEN IN BY THE LATE LORD KUZE
YOU CAN FIGURE IT OUT IF YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT

HEY
tap
KATSU-RAGI
knock
KATSU-RAGI
YOU'RE BACK
knock
knock
AND THEN TWO YEARS LATER YOU WERE BORN
click
creak
COME INSIDE
I TOLD YOU THAT I WOULD COME TO YOUR ROOM IF YOU NEED ME

HOW WAS SHE? IS SHE GETTING BETTER?
I WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR YOU HAD BEEN VISITING HER. SHE MUST HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO SEE YOU.
YOU WENT TO SEE KIKU?
WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR?
Hmph.
HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT
NO I DON'T THINK SHE'LL LAST LONG
I TOLD YOU I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE KATSURAGI
I THOUGHT IT OVER.
YOU
I MET THE HEAD OF THE KATSURAGI FAMILY TODAY.
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

MY MOTHER WAS THE DAUGHTER OF A FAMILY OF COURT NOBLES SHE HAD A DELICATE CONSTITUTION
I THOUGHT IT OVER AND OVER
MY FATHER BLINDLY ADOPTED WESTERN CULTURE AND BELIEVED IN MONOGAMY HE DIDN'T KEEP A MISTRESS AND WAS FAITHFUL TO HIS WIFE ALONE
HOWEVER, WHEN HE TURNED THIRTY, HE MUST HAVE STARTED TO WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE FAMILY
NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE ACCOMPLISHES, THERE'S NO POINT TO IT IF THERE'S NO ONE TO PASS IT DOWN TO.

AKIHITO-SAMA!
IF—
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
WHAT?
IF I VISITED MY FATHER THEN TALKED ABOUT HIM WITH TEARS IN MY EYES, WOULD THAT BE ENOUGH FOR YOU?
N-NO,
KAT-SURA...
NOBODY CARED ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE FORMER MASTER AND ME THEN... SO WHY NOW...
grab

AH...
YOU MIGHT BE THINKING I'LL FLIRT WITH ANYONE,
BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO DO THE SAME WITH YOU.
I'M NOT!!
I JUST WANT TO TALK IT OVER WITH YOU!!

I THINK YOU COULD FIGURE IT OUT IF YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
WHY YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN GOING BACK HOME. WHY YOU SCRAMBLE TO GAIN A HIGHER TITLE
AND WHY YOU ALWAYS...
LORD KUZE,
I THINK YOU NEED TO LEARN TO SEE THINGS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE PEOPLE BENEATH YOU.
I AM ALWAYS BEWILDERED BY THE WAY YOU LOOK AT ME

IT'S HARD TO PUT IT INTO WORDS, BUT YOU LOOK AT ME SO COLDLY.
I HATE IT SO I TRIED MY BEST TO BE A MAN YOU WOULD BE PROUD OF... BUT...
...BUT YOU CURSED MY BEING ALIVE. DIDN'T YOU?

AKIHITO-SAN...
BECAUSE OF ME YOU
WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU EXPECT ME TO SAY?
scene.3 END

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Nakamura presents

Yuuutsu na Asa

by

Shouko Hidaka

Credit

scanner: jigraja

cleaner: gakuma

editor: aiyu

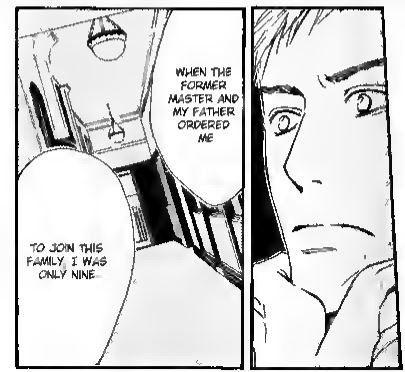
qc: xmonarch & aiyu

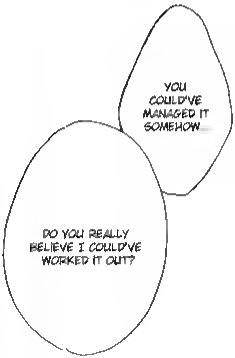
"YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BORN."
grab
"IF NOT FOR YOU I WOULD HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE KUZE FAMILY AND BECOME ITS HEIR"
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT ME TO SAY, MASTER?

憂鬱な朝
scene.1

KATSURAGI...
YOU WANT TO IMPOSE YOUR SHALLOW ASSUMPTION ON ME?
YOU WASTED YOUR DAY IN SUCH AN INDIFFERENT MANNER?
YOU WENT OUT TODAY TO DIG UP MY PAST?
AKIHITO-SAMA,
SAD TO SAY BUT I'M NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE THE SUCCESSOR OF THE KUZE FAMILY

THE KATSURAGI FAMILY IS A BRANCH OF THE KUZE ENTAILED BY THE FEMALE BLOODLINE
TITLES ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO BE BESTOWED UPON AN HEIR OF THE MALE BLOODLINE
IT DOES NOT MATTER IF THE SUCCESSOR IS THEIR OWN CHILD OR AN ADOPTED ONE
IT SUFFICES TO SAY I CANNOT SUCCEED THE FAMILY


WHEN THE FORMER MASTER AND MY FATHER ORDERED ME
TO JOIN THIS FAMILY, I WAS ONLY NINE...


YOU COULD'VE MANAGED IT SOMEHOW...
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE I COULD'VE WORKED IT OUT?

...
HOW COULD A MERE CHILD POSSIBLY HAVE DONE SOMETHING THEN?
AKIHITO-SAMA...
EVERYONE SAYS I JUST LOOK LIKE THE FORMER MASTER. THEY SAY I TALK AND ACT LIKE HIM.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
I'VE TRIED HARD TO BE LIKE THE FORMER MASTER SINCE I WAS YOUNG.
KATSURA-
COMPARED TO THAT, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE THE FORMER MASTER AT ALL
HAVE YOU EVER IMAGINED HOW IRRITATING IT IS TO SEE YOU IN THAT WAY?

WELCOME HOME.
WELCOME HOME MASTER
WHERE'S HIROYUKI?
HE'S WAITING IN THE GUEST ROOM

KEEP EVERYBODY AWAY FROM THE ROOM FOR A WHILE
CERTAINLY
WHAT IS IT ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE? IF YOU NEED AN ACCOUNT BOOK THIS MORNING, I—
I MET LORD KUZE TODAY
WHY DID YOU ?
I WAS ASKED TO MEET HIM PERSONALLY BY THE ASHIZAKI FAMILY.
WE'RE BANKERS. WE CAN'T TURN DOWN A REQUEST FROM AN IMPORTANT CUSTOMER.

I DON'T CARE IF WE KEEP THE PROMISE NOW AFTER ALL THIS TIME
WE HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG
HOWEVER, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THE LATE LORD KUZE PASSED AWAY AND OUR FATHER IS ON HIS DEATHBED
SO? WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT WITH LORD KUZE?
Hah.
I'M NOT GOOD AT DEALING WITH THAT KIND OF CHILD...
OH... WELL
A CHILD?
YEAH
HE'S ONLY INTERESTED IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS
HE CAN'T JUDGE HIMSELF IF NOT WITH OTHER'S EYES

HE MAY BE A CHILD, BUT HIS RANK IS HIGHER THAN OURS. FUTHERMORE HE'S THE HEAD OF THE MAIN FAMILY
I'M NOT SAYING HE'S UNTALENTED I JUST FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH HIM.
YOU KNOW HE HAS NOT YET MATURED BUT HE'S SMART
HE KNEW HE'D BE ABLE TO MEET ME IF HE USED ISHIZAKI TO HIS ADVANTAGE
HE DIDN'T TAKE AFTER HIS FATHER, AKINAO-SAMA, THOUGH
FOR INSTANCE?
UNLIKE HIS FATHER...HE'S NOT CUNNING HE BEHAVES THE WAY HE THINKS A NOBLEMAN SHOULD
HE LOOKS CALM AND GENTLE. PERHAPS HE TAKES AFTER HIS MOTHER
HE KNOWS HOW TO DEAL WITH OTHERS

I'VE SEEN HIM AT SEVERAL GARDEN PARTIES
HE'S HANDSOME AND POPULAR AMONG THE LADIES
IT SEEMS HE ALWAYS ATTENDS PARTIES WHERE INFLUENTIAL FACES ARE IN ATTENDANCE I'VE THOUGHT HIM QUITE SOCIABLE
I DON'T THINK HE ATTENDS THOSE PARTIES WITH AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE...
PERHAPS IT IS TOMOYUKI'S DOING...
IT'S BEEN TWENTY YEARS SINCE THE KUZE FAMILY TOOK HIM IN
I DON'T KNOW...
SO?
I'VE HEARD SOME RUMORS ABOUT TOMOYUKI IT SEEMS HE'S BEEN PERFORMING HIS JOB QUITE WELL

I'M AFRAID
I'VE ALREADY SAID TOO MUCH
WHAT TOMOYUKI INTENDS TO DO WITH LORD KUZE
BUT THE YOUNG MASTER IS SO PURE MINDED THAT I CAN'T HELP TALKING TOO MUCH

"YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE THE FORMER MASTER AT ALL."
I'VE LOST COUNT OF HOW MANY TIMES I WAS REJECTED LIKE THAT
HE SAID THAT TO ME AGAIN AND AGAIN
WHEN KATSURAGI JOINED MY FAMILY
I'M WORN OUT
I WONDER HOW MY FATHER SPOKE TO HIM
KATSURAGI-SAMA IS...

A HEAD OF THE TITLED FAMILY WHO HAD NO CHILDREN WHEN HE REACHED HIS THIRTIES
A NINE YEAR OLD CHILD WHO WAS TAKEN INTO THE FAMILY AND NOT ALLOWED TO RETURN TO HIS OWN FAMILY
SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT BEING A FAMILY MASTER
IF ONLY HE HAD BECOME PERFECT, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SECURE HIS PLACE TO LIVE HE BELIEVED THAT
IF HE HAD BEEN PERFECT
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHETHER SHE KNEW IT OR NOT, THOUGH
KIKU MUST HAVE KNOWN EVERYTHING

I THOUGHT IF I BECAME A FINE MAN, THEN HE WOULD EVENTUALLY ACCEPT ME. WE WOULD UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER THOROUGHLY.
EVEN SOMEONE FROM A LINE OF FEMALE BLOOD CAN RECEIVE A TITLE IF YOU REPEAT ADOPTIONS.
IT'S NOT UNCOMMON AMONG THE NOBLE FAMILIES.
THE LINEAGE LAW FOR NOBLES IS CRAP
IT'S MEANINGLESS TO CLING TO IT
AND SUCCEED TO A TITLED FAMILY
I WONDER HOW MY FATHER TREATED KATSURAGI.
WAS HE STRICT TO HIM LIKE KATSURAGI WAS TO ME?
WAS KATSURAGI ALWAYS REMINDED THAT HE MUST DEVOTE HIS LIFE TO THE KUZE FAMILY WHILE HE LIVED WITH MY FATHER FOR THOSE TEN YEARS?

"I HAVE BEEN CURSED."
"YOU SHOULD NOT..."
"WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?"
"HE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT THE KUZE FAMILY."
"YOU HAVE KATSUYAGI!"
knock
AKIHITO-SAMA,
MAY I COME IN?
knock
knock
NO.
IT'S LATE
...IT'S ME.
click

WHAT IS IT?
I FORGOT TO TELL YOU YOU HAVE AN INVITATION FOR AN EVENING PARTY FROM THE MORIYAMA FAMILY
THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS INVITED SO YOU SHOULDN'T MISS IT
YOU'RE GOING TO STUDY ABROAD SOMEDAY IT'S A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO GET TO KNOW HIM YOU CAN MAKE USE OF HIM
I'VE ALREADY ANSWERED THE INVITATION
SORRY TO HAVE INTERRUPTED YOU SO LATE
KATSURAGI

COME HERE.
WHAT FOR?
JUST COME HERE.
...
ABOUT THE TALK WE HAD BEFORE. I
AKIHITO-SAMA
I'D LIKE YOU TO END THE TALK ABOUT THE KATSURAGI FAMILY...
ALL YOU HAVE TO BE CONCERNED WITH IS THE FUTURE OF THE KUZE FAMILY
MY PAST HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

Hm
I...
HOW-EVER...
YOU WILL NOT ACKNOW-LEDGE ME
YOU NEVER HAVE IN YOUR ENTIRE LIFE
IF YOU DID YOU WOULD HAVE NO REASON TO LIVE
SO,
I HAVE BEEN WONDERING
...WHAT...
...I SHOULD DO TO MAKE YOU ACCEPT ME AS A MAN

I'LL GIVE UP
WHAT DO YOU MEAN-?
AH!
!
I...
I WON'T ASK FOR YOUR HEART.

I'M WILLING TO HAND OVER THE KUZE FAMILY TO YOU!
KATSURAGI I CAN OFFER YOU A TITLE
I'M THE ONE WHO CAN GRANT YOUR WISHES.
MY DEAD FATHER CAN'T DO THAT
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ALWAYS DOING.
LET'S MAKE A DEAL

...WHAT RUBBISH.

I THOUGHT OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS BUILT ON MUTUAL TRUST
ARE YOU WILLING TO THROW EVERYTHING AWAY?
!
HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT!!
YOU'VE NEVER EVER ACCEPTED ME BEFORE!
I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE NEVER EXISTED.
Pull
End

KATSURAGI
LOOK AT ME
SAY SOMETHING
IS THIS AN ORDER...?

IF YOU ORDER ME I'LL OBEY YOU.
YES, IT'S AN ORDER.
YOU DON'T CARE. IT'S JUST A DEAL..

I CAN DO WHAT MY FATHER COULDN'T
HIDING MY HONEST FEELINGS WITH AN EXCUSE...
IF YOU YEARN FOR A TITLE
I'LL GRANT YOUR WISH
AND PRETENDING COOL WITH A COMPOSED FACE...
MMM...
PUSH
AH
SLIDE
KISS

shove
!
NGH!
scratch
OUCH!
YOU SAID...
YOU'D OBEY ME!
!!
WHAT AM I DOING!?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT LIKE THIS.
NN..
scratch
choke
NGH!
grab
NN..
bite
NN..
ARGH!
ARGH!

AH!
I'LL END UP BECOMING ONE OF THEM.
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T DO THIS, BUT I CAN'T STOP.
I THOUGHT...
...HIS EYES TOLD ME "DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE."
I...
KATSURAGI

I shattered every word I wanted to tell you, and buried them deep in my mind.

creak
KATSURAGI...?
...LOOKS LIKE HE WENT BACK TO HIS ROOM
NGH!
throb
LAST NIGHT...
HERE TOO

I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT
KATSURAGI
I COULDN'T LOVE HIM GENTLY AT ALL

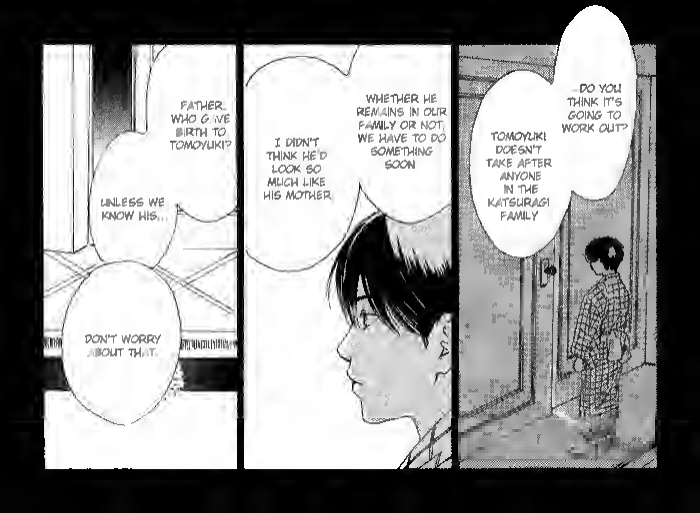
I HAD BEEN DREAMING THINKING SOMEDAY, I WOULD GROW UP TO BE A FINE MAN SO THAT KATSURAGI WOULD WILLINGLY ACCEPT ME

KATSURAGI

WHAT I HOPED FOR.

clack
chirp
"THE PRINCIPAL SAID HE IS THE TOP STUDENT."

"IT CAN BE WORKED OUT"
"SO..."
"I KNOW YOUR FAMILY IS FROM A LINE OF FEMALE BLOOD. BUT HE'S MY COUSIN'S SON. HE'S RELATED CLOSELY ENOUGH"
"BUT MY FAMILY IS..."
"AND HE HAS A BEAUTIFUL FACE."
"HE IS JUST THE RIGHT AGE."
"WE'LL CLOUD HIS TRUE ORIGIN WITH MONEY."
"THEN JOIN THE MAIN FAMILY."
"YES... HE'LL BE TAKEN INTO THE BRANCH FAMILY OF THE KUZE FIRST."


FATHER, WHO GAVE BIRTH TO TOMOYUKI?
UNLESS WE KNOW HIS...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D LOOK SO MUCH LIKE HIS MOTHER.
WHETHER HE REMAINS IN OUR FAMILY OR NOT, WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING SOON.
TOMOYUKI DOESN'T TAKE AFTER ANYONE IN THE KATSURAGI FAMILY.
...DO YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO WORK OUT?

ONCE HE BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE KUZE FAMILY... NO ONE WILL REMEMBER HIS ORIGINS
HIS MOTHER HAS LONG BEEN DEAD
AKIHITO-SAMA, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW
THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT ONE CAN DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ABOUT IN LIFE

I WONDER
IF I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE LOVING AND CONSIDERATE TO HIM

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Nakamura presents

Yuuutsu na Asa

by

Shouko Hidaka

Credit

scanner: gabby

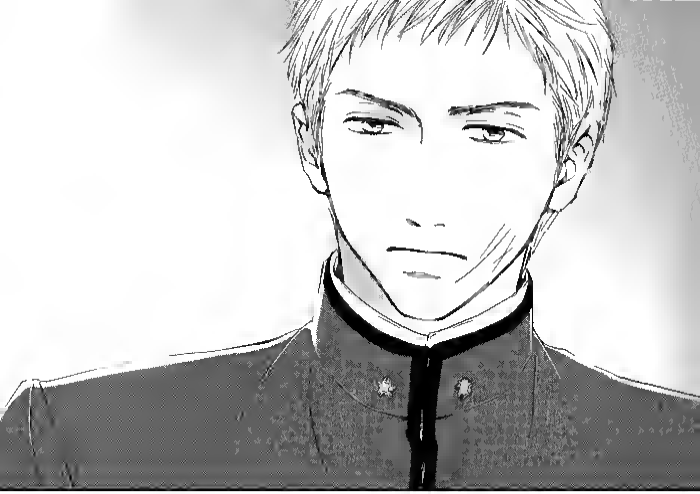
translator: gabby

editor: anyone

your abbreviation

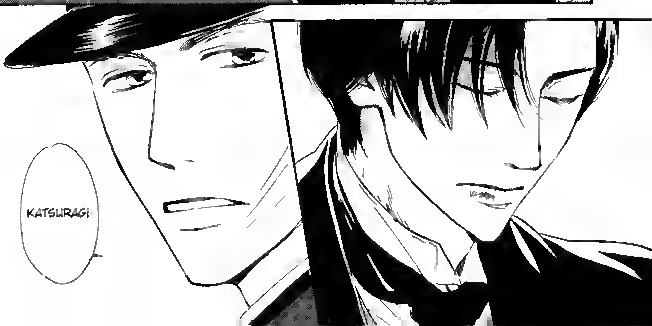
憂鬱な朝
scene.5

shff
snap
YOU'RE DISMISSED.
YES, EXCUSE US
Slam



HAVE A GOOD DAY, MASTER.
HAVE A GOOD DAY.
HAVE A NICE DAY, MASTER.
THANK YOU.

HAVE A NICE DAY


KATSURAGI

psst
COME TO MY ROOM TONIGHT
YOU SAID YOU'D DO WHATEVER I ORDER
VERY WELL
squeeze

shove
I'M GOING NOW
rattle rattle rattle
KATSURAGI-SAMA
NO.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?

COULD I HAVE YOUR SCHEDULE TODAY?
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT
YES
WHAT FOR?
AH, MASTER ORDERED YOU TO CHECK IT, RIGHT?
I'M GOING TO KABUTO-CHOU, AND AFTER THAT
I'M GOING TO VISIT THE MORIYAMA FAMILY. TELL MASTER I'LL BE BACK LATE
YES I WILL
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?

splash
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE FRESH
KATSURAGI DID IT
AH
YOU'VE GOT A SCRATCH
MY FACE?
squeeze
splash
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT HE WOULD'VE BEEN PUT TO DEATH FOR THAT IN THE OLD DAYS
HE DOESN'T CARE
HE SEES ME AS AN ANNOYING BUG OR SOMETHING
TOMOYUKI KATSURAGI MANAGES YOUR ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD UNTIL YOU REACH TWENTY, RIGHT?
THAT'S CORRECT

I DON'T INTEND TO MEDDLE IN YOUR FAMILY ISSUES
BUT KATSURAGI IS NOT THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY IT'S YOU YOU SHOULDN'T LET KATSURAGI HAVE EVERYTHING HIS WAY
ISHIZAKI
SO YOU ONLY HAVE THREE YEARS UNTIL THEN
YOU SHOULD START TO THINK OF WHAT YOU'LL DO WITH KATSURAGI DURING YOUR STUDY ABROAD MY FAMILY WILL LOOK AFTER EVERYTHING FOR YOU
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR FATHER?
I HAVE NO MEMORIES OF MY FATHER.
SO I WONDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE BEING FATHER AND SON
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
DURING PRACTICE I REMEMBERED THE DAYS
WHEN YOUR FATHER TAUGHT ME HOW TO PLAY KENDO

EVEN IN MY MERCHANT CLASS FAMILY WE HAVE PLENTY OF ISSUES I DON'T WANT TO IMAGINE THE COMPLEXITIES WITHIN NOBLE FAMILIES
I DON'T THINK THERE ARE MANY STUDENTS WHO ENJOY ORDINARY FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIPS
ALL FAMILIES HAVE THEIR OWN CONCERNS
SAVING FACE FOR THE FAMILY COMES BEFORE EVERYTHING AND THAT'S THEIR STANDARD
I GUESS SO
YEAH
SOUNDS NICE
BUT TONIGHT I WILL
YOU'RE NOT FREE?
KUZE
DO YOU WANT TO DROP BY MY HOUSE? TOMORROW'S OUR DAY OFF
MY FAMILY WILL BE DELIGHTED

WELL,
IT'S NOT THAT
IT'S UNLIKELY FOR KATSURAGI
TO OBEY MY ORDERS ALL THE TIME

OKAY I'M COMING
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY GOING TO BUY THE STOCK OF KANEMOTO SPINNING COMPANY?
YES. YOU CAN THROW IN ALL THE CAPITAL WE EARNED FROM THE RAILROAD BUSINESS.

ALL OF IT?
YES
KANEMOTO'S SON AND THE SECOND DAUGHTER OF TANAKA ZAIBATSU WILL BE ENGAGED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT YEAR
THAT MEANS BIG MONEY WILL BE INVESTED IN THE COMPANY. THE STOCK PRICE WILL DEFINITELY SKYROCKET
BUT ISN'T IT TOO RISKY TO INVEST THAT MUCH MONEY?
Several hundred thousand
I WONDER IF I HAVE EVER ENDED UP LOSING MONEY...
NO YOU HAVE NOT
I'LL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY
I'M SURE YOU'RE WELL AWARE OF IT, BUT MAKE SURE THE INFORMATION WON'T BE LEAKED TO THE REPORTERS
Flip
Flip
IT'LL MAKE A FUSS IF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE KUZE'S ASSETS IS REVEALED IN ECONOMIC MAGAZINES OR OTHER MEDIA.
CERTAINLY
I'LL MANAGE TO FAKE THE NUMBER

IT'S BETTER TO SHOW THE PUBLIC THAT THE KUZE FAMILY MAINTAINS A MODEST AMOUNT OF ASSETS IN COMPARISON TO THE VISCOUNT
THAT WAY THE UPPER CLASS AND COMMONERS ALIKE WILL NOT BECOME FURIOUS
IT'S CRUCIAL NOT TO CAUSE ANY FRICTIONS FOR THE FUTURE LORD KUZE
BUT I THINK
THE FORMER MASTER WAS NOT TACTFUL ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH THESE SENSITIVE ISSUES
HE WAS TOO EGOISTIC TO CARE FOR THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?
KATSURAGI BANK IS THE BIGGEST SHAREHOLDER OF KANEMOTO COMPANY

IF WE THROW THAT MUCH MONEY INTO THE STOCK MARKET THEN TAKAYUKI KATSURAGI, THE HEAD OF THE BANK WILL NOT FAIL TO NOTICE OUR INVESTMENT
HE'S ALWAYS EXTREMELY CAREFUL NOT TO BUY ANY STOCKS KATSURAGI BANK IS INVESTING IN
I'M WORRIED SOME FRICTION MIGHT BE CAUSED BETWEEN THEM
clatter
clatter clatter
WHAT SPECIFICALLY
I MET THE HEAD OF THE KATSURAGI FAMILY TODAY

I WAS THINKING YOU WOULDN'T VISIT ME AGAIN
...HOW COME?
HAVE I EVER DONE SOMETHING I NEED TO ASK YOUR PARDON FOR?
YES, INDEED.
I RECEIVED NO WORD FROM YOU ABOUT THE INVITATION TO THE PARTY.
tap
IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE
...DID MY BROTHER SAY ABOUT ME...?

I BELIEVE I REPLIED
NO
YOU DIDN'T BRING THE LETTER WITH YOU
YOU ARE HARD TO PLEASE.
NEVER MIND
AFTER ALL
YOU WILL STAY IN TOUCH WITH ME ONLY UNTIL AKIHITO-SAMA REACHES ADULTHOOD
TAKAKO IS ENGAGED WITH THE SON OF THE SAIONJI FAMILY
I'LL BE HAPPY IF SHE BEARS A SON SOMEDAY
I'M TRULY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR EFFORT.

IS THAT SO?
YOU TAUGHT HIM HOW TO DANCE DIDN'T YOU?
I DON'T KNOW
AKIHITO-SAMA WILL BE SEVENTEEN IN TIME IS HE SEEING SOMEONE ALREADY?
I'M THRILLED TO SEE HIM DANCE AT THE PARTY
I SUP-POSE SO
DO YOU THINK HE'LL DANCE JUST LIKE HIS FATHER, AKINAO-SAMA?
REALLY?
YES YOU ARE
YOU'RE ALWAYS HAPPY WHEN TALKING ABOUT AKIHITO-SAMA
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU TODAY?

KATSU-RAGI
AKINAO-SAMA WAS CONSERVATIVE AND CLUNG TO THE OLD WAY OF THINKING
YOU KNEW THAT, DIDN'T YOU?
"HE DOESN'T BEHAVE PROPERLY AS A HEAD OF THE FAMILY"
"HE'S IMMATURE"
"HE DOESN'T TAKE AFTER HIS FATHER"
YOU GRUMBLED ALL THE TIME
IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS
SINCE AKINAO-SAMA PASSED AWAY I THINK THE WORDS YOU RECEIVED FROM HIM MAY HAVE REACHED THEIR EXPIRATION DATE
FROM NOW ON, YOU SHOULD SUPPORT AKIHITO-SAMA WITH YOUR OWN WORDS
IT'S BEYOND MY UNDERSTANDING
BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WISH HIM TO BE HE'LL NEVER GROW INTO THE SAME PERSONALITY AS HIS FATHER'S

WHAT-EVER.
YOU ALWAYS WEAR ON YOUR FACE WHEN I TALK ABOUT AKIHITO-SAMA
IT'S SUCH A DELIGHT TO SEE THE DIFFERENT FACES YOU PUT ON
...THAT'S THE EX-PRESS-ION
NO. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HAVE TO BE SO STUBBORN
rattle
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND
grab
KATSU-RAGI
HOW DID YOU GET THE SCRATCH ON YOUR LIP?

IT'S MISCHIEF FROM THE HOUSE DOG.
KUZE?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I THINK...
THE NUMBER OF THE VASES HAS INCREASED SINCE THE LAST TIME I CAME.
ugh

IT'S NOT ME BUT MY FATHER WHO BUILT THAT HOUSE IN WESTERN STYLE
That picture is an original, but that Buddha statue is a fake
THERE ARE TOO FEW ORNAMENTS THERE
JUDGING FROM THE SIZE OF YOUR HOUSE
BUT I HAVE TO SAY
I remember seeing the original of that plate somewhere
I'M GOING TO SELL OFF ALL THE JUNK WHEN I TAKE OVER MY FAMILY
I KNOW
I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT SOME OF THEM ARE FAKE
OF ME!
OF WHO?
slide
PEOPLE GET JEALOUS
BECAUSE HE BUILT SUCH A LUXURIOUS HOUSE
I'M PLANNING TO GO BACK THERE SOME DAY
I LIKE YOUR HOUSE A LOT IT REMINDS ME OF MY SECOND HOUSE IN KAMAKURA
YES
EXCUSE ME
THAT'S ENOUGH
SOMEDAY BUT IT'S TOO SOON TO THINK ABOUT THE DAYS AFTER RETIREMENT

clack
KUZE
SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT WITH YOU TODAY
I KNOW YOU'RE AN ODDBALL
BUT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU
NOTHING, REALLY
ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT KATSURAGI?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY ?
YOU'RE ALMOST ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT KATSURAGI WHEN YOU LOOK DOWN
I TOLD YOU BEFORE YOU'RE TOO ATTACHED TO KATSURAGI
DO YOU REALIZE THAT?
SO WHAT?
SOMEDAY YOU'LL SUCCEED TO YOUR FAMILY AND THEN YOU'LL UNDERSTAND
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT. I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU. LOOK AT THAT SCRATCH ON YOUR FACE, IT'S .
slide
SOUICHIROU

rattle
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
PLEASE MAKE YOUR-SELF AT HOME.
FATHER
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN, LORD KUZE? IT'S A PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU IN MY HOME
...I DON'T KNOW IF TAKAYUKI KATSURAGI WAS HAPPY TO MEET YOU, THOUGH.
I WAS ABOUT TO MEET HIM TO TALK ABOUT BUSINESS, SO IT WAS NO PROBLEM.
I SHOULD HAVE COME AND THANKED YOU SOONER FOR ARRANGING TO IT MEETING THE OTHER DAY FOR ME.
DON'T MENTION IT.
WELL

I ASSUME MY FATHER DIDN'T GET ALONG WITH THE KATSURAGI FAMILY WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER.
THAT'S TYPICAL
THEN
YOU SHOULD BREAK TIES WITH THE KATSURAGI FAMILY
AND LET KATSURAGI GO BACK HOME
SOUICHIROU
WHAT'S WRONG?
THE KATSURAGI FAMILY IS ONLY A BRANCH OF THE KUZE THEY ARE RANKED EVEN LOWER THAN US AMONG MERCHANTS
ENOUGH, SOUICHIROU!
—I WENT TOO FAR I'M SORRY
LOOK AT YOU!
NOW LORD KUZE
YES!?
DO YOU HAVE TIME TONIGHT?

I WASN'T FAMILIAR WITH THE MANNERS AT THAT KIND OF PLACE IN SHINBASHI, SO I GREATLY APPRECIATED YOUR HELP...
IT WAS FUN WHEN YOU TOOK ME THERE BEFORE
OH, FUKU-DAROU?
WE'RE NOT PREPARED TO ENTERTAIN YOU AT HOME TONIGHT
SO HOW ABOUT GOING TO FUKUDAROU IN SHINBASHI
I'M DELIGHTED TO ACCOMPANY YOU. YOU ARE QUITE POPULAR AMONG LADIES
IT'S A PLEASURE FOR OLDSTERS TO ACCOMPANY YOUNGSTERS AND TEACH THEM THIS AND THAT
TO GET YOURSELF ACCUSTOMED TO THOSE PLACES, YOU MUST FREQUENT THERE AND GET TO KNOW A LANDLADY AND A GEISHA
WHAT'S THE POINT OF GOING WITH YOU?
I HAVE AN IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT TONIGHT
BUT I'M SORRY
THANK YOU VERY MUCH

I THOUGHT HE'D BE COMING
HE TOLD ME AT SCHOOL THAT HE WAS FREE TONIGHT
beep
I LIKE HIM.
I DIDN'T LIKE HIS FATHER BUT HE'S DIFFERENT
DID YOU KNOW HIS FATHER?
YES HE WAS OFTEN IN THE MIDST OF GOSSIP
ALL THE MERCHANTS KNEW HIM WELL
I THINK IT'S THANKS TO KATSURAGI THAT THE YOUNG MASTER GREW INTO SUCH A DECENT AND SMART GENTLEMAN
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL AGREE WITH ME
BUT I LIKE KATSURAGI
NO, I DON'T

IT WAS YOU!
creak
TAMURA SAID YOU WENT TO THE MORIYAMA RESIDENCE I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T BE BACK TONIGHT
HOW ABOUT YOU?
DID YOU MEET SOME ONE AGAIN FROM THE KATSURAGI FAMILY?
NO
I
AKIHITO-SAMA

MY LIFE'S AMBITION IS FOR YOU TO RECEIVE A HIGHER TITLE.
THE FORMER MASTER CRAVED FOR THAT
JUST LIKE THE FORMER MASTER ORDERED ME.
WHATEVER HAPPENS, I WILL GUIDE YOU TO LIVE FOR THE KLIZE FAMILY

IF YOU LIKE I WILL RELINQUISH MY TITLE AND GIVE IT TO YOU ONCE I BECOME TWENTY I'M GOING TO TALK SOMEONE IN THE MALE LINE INTO
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS
IT'S YOUR AMBITION NOT MINE
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WHEN YOU WERE BORN,
BUT THAT'S NO LONGER AN OPTION. THIS LATE IN THE GAME
YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO HAND OVER THE KUZE FAMILY TO ME BUT IT CAN'T BE WORKED OUT
AKIHITO-SAMA
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
...

A TITLE AND WHATEVER.
IT'S ALL RUBBISH I JUST WANT TO STAY CLOSE TO YOU FOREVER
I DON'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU OBEY ME, BUT I JUST
AKIHITO-SAMA
I HAVE A DEAL FOR YOU
I'LL SERVE YOU ALL THROUGHOUT MY LIFE
EVEN AFTER YOUR ADULTHOOD

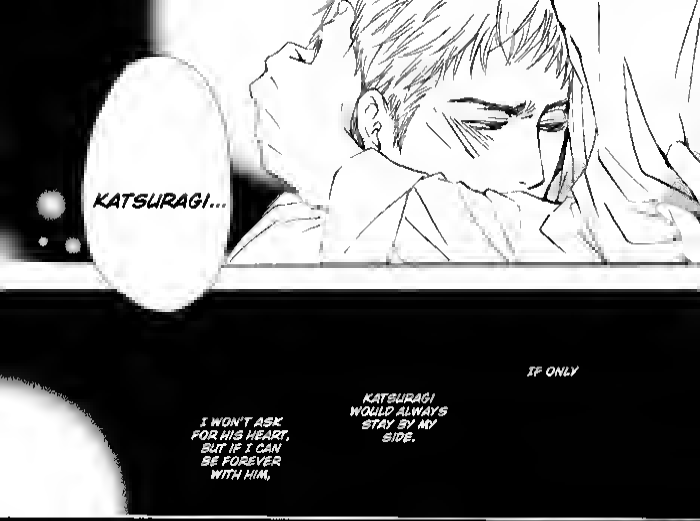
FOR THE KUZE FAMILY... YOU WILL RECEIVE A HIGHER TITLE THAN THE EARL.
IN RETURN
YOU WILL STRIVE TO LIVE FOR A TITLE
DON'T TALK NONSENSE.

grab
...DO YOU STILL
TREASURE MY FATHER'S WORDS?
HE MADE YOU TO_
WHAT-EVER YOU SAY,
THE FORMER MASTER DIDN'T DO ANYTHING STUPID LIKE YOU YOU GOT ME LAID
THAT WAS
I, I JUST
I SEE
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.
I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.
YOU WERE RIGHT

I HAVE RUINED THE TRUST AND EVERYTHING
BETWEEN YOU AND ME

I LOVE KATSU-RAGI
AH
I DON'T CARE WHAT HE THINKS OF ME
I JUST NEED HIM.
HAA
KA-TSU-RAGI

NNGH!
AH...
FROM THE BEGGINING,
KATSURAGI'S BEEN EVERYTHING TO ME.
I KNOW HE WILL NEVER ACKNOWLEDGE ME AS A MAN WORTH BEING WITH
I KNOW HE WILL NEVER FALL IN LOVE WITH ME
BUT I LOVE HIM. I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HIM.
KATSU-RAGI.
KATSURAGI


KATSURAGI...
IF ONLY
KATSURAGI WOULD ALWAYS STAY BY MY SIDE.
I WON'T ASK FOR HIS HEART, BUT IF I CAN BE FOREVER WITH HIM,

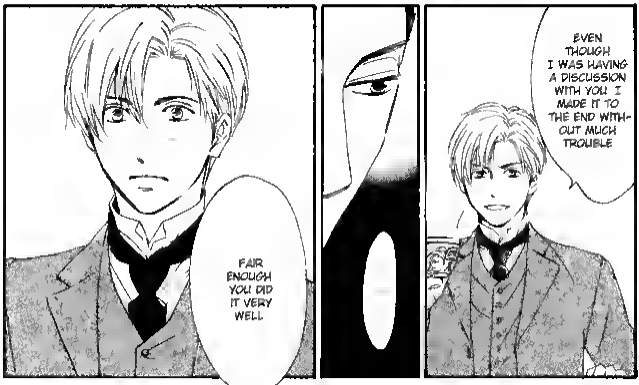
I will do anything for him.
Scene.5 END

I HAVE A NEW FRIEND
THAT'S GOOD
clatter
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK ME ANYTHING?
YOU'RE ALWAYS KEEN TO KNOW EVERY-THING
WITH WHOM I TALKED OR WHAT WORDS I GOT FROM HIS MAJESTY—
THAT'S MY JOB
IT'S YOUR OWN BUSINESS WHO YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH
I DON'T INTEND TO MEDDLE IN YOUR PRIVATE LIFE
I DON'T MIND IF YOU DO
clatter
PLEASE DON'T MAKE ANY NOISE
IT JUST SLIPPED
NO EXCUSES ARE ALLOWED

HIS NAME IS ISHIZAKI SOUICHIROU
HE'S A NICE GUY
I'D LIKE TO INVITE HIM TO MY HOUSE I WANT TO INTRODUCE HIM TO YOU
SO HE'S A SON OF THE ISHIZAKI ZAIBATSU
HE MUST BE THE FIRST SON, BEING IN THE SAME CLASS AS YOU IT'S GOOD FOR YOU TO HAVE SUCH AN INFLUENTIAL PERSON AS A FRIEND
WHATEVER YOU DREAM ABOUT
I'M GOING TO LIVE IN MY OWN WAY
DON'T GET ME WRONG
I DON'T CARE WHAT FAMILY HE IS FROM.
ISHIZAKI IS MY REAL FRIEND

I SEE
I'M TELLING YOU
SOMEDAY YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT I REALLY WANT
YOU HAVE
MY WORD.

MY TABLE MANNERS ARE NOW PERFECT
SEE?
clink


EVEN THOUGH I WAS HAVING A DISCUSSION WITH YOU I MADE IT TO THE END WITHOUT MUCH TROUBLE
FAIR ENOUGH YOU DID IT VERY WELL

OH, YES!
OH REALLY?
I'M SO HAPPY TO FINALLY GET A COMPLIMENT FROM YOU.

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Nakamura presents

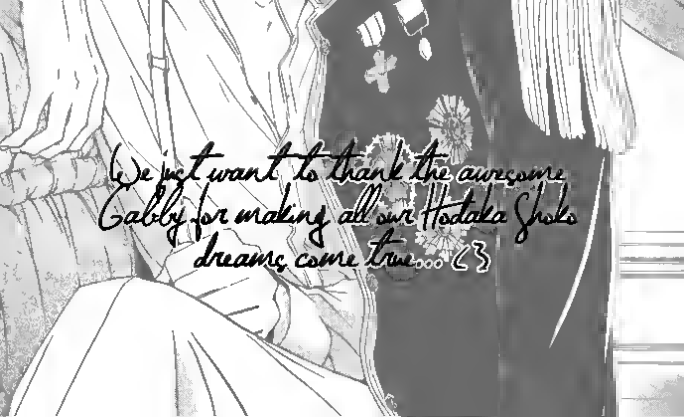
Yuuutsu na Asa

by

Shouko Hidaka

Credit

scanner: gabby
translator: gabby
editor: milky
additional editing: aoipua
proofer: chocomilkshake
green: mary-jo


We just want to thank the awesome
Gabby for making all our Hotaka Shoko
dreams come true... <3